

Dear State Health Officials:

On July 22, HHS Secretary Burwell issued a letter to state governors' offices inviting them to assemble a three-person delegation of state officials to participate in an upcoming meeting, *"Advancing Policy and Practice: A 50-State Convening to Prevent Opioid Overdose and Addiction."* The meeting will be held September 17-18, 2015 in Arlington, VA. This invitation is attached for your review.

ASTHO is partnering with HHS, as well as the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD), and the National Governors Association (NGA), on this important event. This is the second national meeting hosted by the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), who advises the Secretary of HHS on policy development and is spearheading recent HHS efforts to address opioid abuse through three targeted areas: prescribing practices, naloxone use, and expansion of medication-assisted treatment.

I encourage you to contact your governor's office and their key policy staff to discuss who will be appointed to represent your state at this conference. State officials who are involved in activities associated with prescription drug monitoring programs, medical licensing boards, Medicaid, state substance abuse agencies, and/or state health departments are urged to participate.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or ASTHO staff if you require assistance or additional information.

Sincerely,

Paul Jarris, MD, MBA

Executive Director

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